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Sue Webber MSP
Convener
Education Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

26 April 2023

Dear Sue,

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter to Shirley-Anne Somerville, former Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills regarding artificial intelligence and the potential impact on coursework assessments. I am responding as the new Cabinet Secretary.

As the Committee will be aware, Chat GPT has been the focus of recent media interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI), albeit there are a range of openly available tools that can generate different types of content including text, images, and video.

In relation to course assessments, you will be aware that the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is the awarding body for Scotland, and as an executive Non-Departmental Public Body operates at arm's length from Ministers. Whilst the SQA is responsible for its own operational decisions around the qualifications, including policy and guidance on AI, I understand the SQA is providing a direct response to the Committee on this.

As set out above, the need for amended, or new guidance in this area will be kept under consideration as understanding of the opportunities and threats presented by these technological developments continue to grow, to ensure the continued integrity of the qualifications and assessments.

Yours sincerely

JENNY GILRUTH

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